



Berlin Student Support Guide 2022 Entry

MetFilm School Berlin Student Support Guide

MetFilm School is a world-leading film, television and online media school which offers undergraduate, postgraduate and short courses in London and Berlin.

If you're nervous about leaving home, moving to a new country or just want specific information about our facilities, we've compiled some useful information that we hope will help you plan ahead for your time as a student and adjust to student life after you've arrived.

Our mission is to inspire a new generation of creative professionals. We bring the education and screen industries together in a creative environment, driven by great teaching and practical, hands-on experience, led by inspiring models.

Looking to build your future in the screen industries? MetFilm School Berlin is the perfect place to turn your passion into practice. Working closely with leading industry professionals, we offer students from around the world an intensive, career-focused practical training experience in a fearless and diverse environment. All our courses are taught in English. German skills are not required in order to study at MetFilm School London.

Our Berlin campus is based at BUFA-Studios, one of the oldest film studios in Europe, in the Tempelhof/Neukölln area of Berlin. Our students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities and art training spaces including a fully equipped 1,500sq ft studio, two standing sets, a 5.1 surround sound screening room and postproduction suites.

With around 98% of our students coming from abroad, you will find a highly international and inspiring environment at MetFilm School Berlin, giving you the opportunity to connect with aspiring filmmakers all over the world.

Film & TV Industry in Germany

Germany boasts a thriving local industry, a film-friendly shooting climate and world-class facilities, more regionalised than the UK, Berlin is not the only industry hotspot in Germany: Munich, Cologne and Hamburg are also home to German and international production companies and TV channels such as Constantin Film, Bavaria Film, Turner Broadcasting, EndemolShine Germany, Sky, RTL and Pro7 among many others.

Studio Babelsberg in Potsdam; near Berlin is one of the country's main production facilities. The oldest large-scale studio complex in the world. Countless renowned filmmakers have worked with Studio Babelsberg, engaging the studio to produce legendary films, including *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Inglourious Basterds*, *Bridge of Spies* and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay* keep the tradition of grand cinema alive. *Matrix 4* is currently in production at Babelsberg studiobabelsberg.com/en

Explore Berlin & A Guide to the Area

Getting around Berlin

With great public transport and extensive bike lanes, it is easy to get from A to B all year-round. The Underground (U-bahn), the Overground Schnellbahn (S-bahn s-bahn-berlin.de) and Ringbahn provide fantastic access to most parts of Berlin and run through the night on weekends- it's a city that never sleeps! Berlin is also home to Germany's largest tram network, which is comprised of 28 daytime lines and five nighttime tramlines. Trams are a great way to get to places not served by the U-Bahn or S-Bahn.

The BVG website bvg.de has a wealth of information on city transport and prices.

Prefer cycling instead? Swapfiets (swapfiets.de/en) is a service providing bicycles for a fixed monthly fee starting from €19.50. The bicycle will be delivered free of charge to you, where and when. If the bicycle breaks get in touch with Swapfiets and within 48 hours they will provide you with a working bicycle at a location chosen by you.

Students have free access to the Library of Deutsche Kinemathek (Museum for Film and Television at Potsdamer Platz) deutsche-kinemathek.de/en



Markets

Mauer Park

The flea market at Mauer Park is the biggest in the city, packed with furniture booths, artists' tents and street food stalls! Famous for its Open Air Karaoke in the summer. Set in the massive park in Prenzlauer Berg, it's also a popular spot to pick up vintage goods from around the world. For further information visit berlin.de/en/shopping/markets-and-flea-markets/1998222-2983302-flea-market-at-mauerpark.en.html

Nowkölln

Known as a trendy spot popular with young expats in the Neukölln district. A long, vibrant set of stalls and stages- you can pick up handmade accessories and vintage clothing. For further information visit nowkoelln.de

Markthalle Neun

Set in the heart of Kreuzberg, drop by on a Thursday to catch street food pop-ups, or if you check the calendar, they often run a Sunday brunch market. For further information visit markthalleneun.de/veranstaltungen

Boxhagener Platz Market

Known for its bohemian charm, the Sunday market has great second-hand furniture and old records. There are lots of great neighbouring restaurants too to check out! For more information visit berlin.de/en/shopping/markets-and-flea-markets/1998240-2983302-fleamarket-at-boxhagener-platz-en.html

Kollwitzplatz Farmers' Market

Stock up on fresh fruit, veg and flowers at the Kollwitzplatz Farmers' Market every Thursday. Kick-off is at 12pm to guarantee farmers can harvest their produce on the same day they sell. For more information visit visitberlin.de/en/okomarkt-am-kollwitzplatz

Food & Drink Recommendations

Berlin offers an endless choice of amazing bars and restaurants with culinary delights from all around the world. Below are a small selection of local favourites:

Bars

- **Das Hotel**, Mariannenstraße 26a, 10999 Berlin (Cosy bar with candlelights, good drinks, great music and soul and indie parties in the adjacent basement club)
- **Klunkerkranich**, Karl-Marx-Straße 66, 12043 Berlin (Bar on top of a shopping mall, ideal for a late afternoon cocktail while enjoying the sunset over Berlin skyline)
- **Das Gift**, 119 Donaustraße, 12043 Berlin (Bar with Scottish pub food and weekly quizzes)
- **Villa Neukölln**, Hermannstraße 233, 12049 Berlin (Weekly salsa/swing dances in the back ballroom also film screenings and events)

Cafés

- **Myxa Café Berlin**, Lenau Str. 22, 12047 Berlin
- **House of Small Wonders**, Johannisstraße 20, 10117 Berlin
- **Roamers**, Pannierstraße 64, 12043 Berlin
- **Five Elephant**, Reichenberger Str. 101, 10999 Berlin

Restaurants

- **Masaniello** – Italian, Hasenheide 20, 10967 Berlin
- **Umami** – Vietnamese, Knaackstraße, 10405 Berlin
- **Cocolo Ramen** – Japanese, Graefestraße 11, 10967 Berlin
- **Villa Rixdorf** – German, Richardplatz 6, 12055 Berlin
- **Café am Neuen See** – Beer Garden and Restaurant, Lichtensteinallee 2, 10787 Berlin



Cinemas

Most cinema's show films in English or with English subtitles.

- "OMEU" – Original with English subtitles
- "OmU" – Original with German subtitles
- "OV" – Original Version

Open Air Cinemas (Summer only)

- Freiluftkino Hasenheide
- Freiluftkino Kreuzberg
- Freiluftkino Friedrichshain
- Kino am Potsdamer Platz

Indie Cinemas

- Kino International
- Wolf Kino
- Il Kino
- Moviemento
- Hackesche Höfe Kino

Local Blogs

- Berlin Food Stories – Food
- Cee Cee – Lifestyle, activities, events and food
- Finding Berlin – Food, events, summer guides etc.
- iHeartBerlin – Art, fashion and entertainment

Facebook Groups for Berlin Filmmakers

- International Filmmakers Berlin
- Women's Film Network Berlin (Co-Founded by BA graduate Tunde Aledese)

Upon Arrival in Berlin

All new Berlin residents need to do the Anmeldung: Anmeldung in Germany is registering your current residence with the local authorities, living at a specific address. This is one of the most important administrative steps for anybody moving to Germany – no matter if you are an EU/EEA- or Non-EU-national. For all the details and relevant links please go to <https://www.settle-in-berlin.com/anmeldung/>

Apply for residence permit (Non-EU nationals only): On top of the German student visa, you will have to apply for a residence permit if you are not an EU/EEA citizen and intend to study longer than 90 days in Germany. Please follow this link for all the details: [settle-in-berlin.com/germany-visa/student-visa-germany-application/](https://www.settle-in-berlin.com/germany-visa/student-visa-germany-application/)

Setting up a Bank Account

In order to pay your rent, you will need a Girokonto (a transactional account) where your expenses and earnings go to.

N26 is the best option for a bank account in Germany. It offers the Girokonto with no fees attached, free credit card, free withdrawals worldwide and free online banking and free international money transfer with interface and customer support available in English and you can open the account online in a few minutes with a webcam. Although it is a digital bank, it also offers the same guarantees as traditional ones.

Common Banking abbreviations

- **Grundpreis – basic fee:** Monthly fee for having a bank account in the first place
- **Dispokredit** – Overdraft: that's when you withdraw more money than you have, up to certain limit. Usually costing 7% to 11%
- **Überziehung** – also overdraft but not limited by any conditions
- **Bareinzahlung** – cash deposit
- **Kontoauszüge:** German banks are legally required to send you a monthly account statement, giving you an overview of movements on the account.

Health Insurance in Berlin

Health insurance is mandatory in Germany. Your insurer will give you a health insurance card, which you should take to every doctor, dentist and specialist appointment to be scanned.

MAWISTA Student is a Health Insurance company for language students and university students in Germany; with costs starting from €33.10 per month.

For further information visit mawista.com/en/health-insurance-for-foreign-nationals-in-germany/health-insurance-for-students/

Find a Doctor who speaks your language: [settle-in-berlin.com/find-english-speaking-doctor-berlin-near/](https://www.settle-in-berlin.com/find-english-speaking-doctor-berlin-near/)

Mobile Phone Providers

In Germany, SIM cards are sold separately from the phone, so make sure your phone is "unlocked" before you go to Germany. SIM cards can be obtained in supermarkets, or local stores for around €10. They come with no minimum costs and no minimum commitment.

If you have already submitted your Anmeldung and opened a bank account, you are able to sign for a contract at one of the following Germany mobile phone contract providers: T-Mobile, Vodafone, O2 and 1&1. These providers often provide a 1- or 2-year contract which you need to keep in mind!

It is possible to take out a SIM card only contract in Germany. This is more suitable if you already have a phone and just want the service.

If you order and activate your sim card online, you will need to go through an identification process with a Meldebescheinigung and your passport before you can use it. Each provider has different ways but most of them can do that via connecting you to a special service dedicated to that via webcam, or via a post office. For further information visit [settle-in-berlin.com/mobile-phone-germany-providers.](https://www.settle-in-berlin.com/mobile-phone-germany-providers/)

Internet Providers

In general, don't sign up for internet plans that are strongly promoted as they often come with drawbacks like a 2-year subscription.

How to sign up with an Internet provider

1. Find the offer that you would like to have
2. Enter your address on their website to check for available speeds in your building
3. Enter your personal information
4. Wait for contract confirmation
5. Receive your modems – Wifi Routers
6. Wait for technician to open your line (up to 14 days)

You may need to pay for a one-off fee for the price of the router or other equipment being provided, and fees for 'processing your contract' to finally open your contract with a German internet provider. For further information visit settle-in-berlin.com/internet-in-germany-providers

German TV Tax (Rundfunkbeitrag)

Each household in Germany is required to pay a German TV tax in order to finance the production and the broadcasting of content by public channels.

It costs €17,50 per month, and payment can be done by visiting the official website rundfunkbeitrag.de

Employability

Creative Industry Job Portals

- Monster
- StepStone
- Indeed
- Creative City
- Mandy – Crew/actors
- Dasauge – Media and Advertising
- Mediajobs.de – Media
- Crew United – Crew for Film & TV Productions
- DWDL.de – TV & Film

- Radioszene – Radio and TV
- Casting-Network – Actors
- Castforward – Casting for Actors
- Stagepool – Artists, producers, theatre and media professionals in the field of acting, musical, theatre, TV, film, event or music

Student Support

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Counselling

Our dedicated student Counselling Service offers a free and confidential service to any student who needs it – including individual counselling, group sessions and general wellbeing advice.

Sessions are delivered online, giving students flexibility about the timings when they can access the service. These 50 minute sessions offer a confidential, safe space for you to discuss and share whatever is going on in your life at the moment – a place for you to explore how you can improve some of the immediate challenges affecting your schoolwork or general wellbeing.

You can book a session or simply ask for some advice via counselling@metfilmschool.ac.uk

Togetherall

MetFilm School students can access Togetherall, our mental health and wellbeing portal. Togetherall is an anonymous community where members can reach out for support with their mental health. Access is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You will be able to access trained professionals, self-assessments, issue specific resources and a wide range of self-guided courses to complete at your own pace.

Your access to Togetherall becomes available during the Pre-Induction Programme, before you formally begin your studies at MetFilm School.



togetherall

Disability Support

Disabled and Neurodiverse Support at MetFilm School

MetFilm School wants all students to have equal access to their course and the facilities. The Student Services team and its dedicated Disability & Wellbeing Adviser provide confidential, specialist advice to help address any physical, study or communication barriers students may find in the learning environment. Student Services work hand in hand with academic staff to support students with a wide range of disabilities including:

- neurodiversity and specified learning differences (such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD)
- mental health difficulties (such as depression, bi-polar disorder)
- long-term medical conditions (such as HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis)
- hidden disabilities (such as diabetes, asthma, epilepsy)
- sensory impairments (such as visual impairment, hearing impairment)
- mobility or physical impairments (such as paralysis, arthritis)

You can register with the team during enrolment or any time during your studies. Alternatively, you can book an appointment with a member of the team to discuss your circumstances and support arrangements.

We encourage students to disclose disability or support needs as early as possible, so the correct support can be set up to help you reach your full potential. If you have disclosed a disability or learning support need in your application, you will be asked for further information during the online enrolment process.

If you need adjustments for the induction and pre-induction periods, please let your admissions manager know or contact the school via the email address below.

Students can disclose or discuss a condition at any time during their study by emailing wellbeing@metfilmschool.ac.uk

I have confirmed by place on the course – what happens next?

If you have disclosed a disability or learning support need during your application, you will be contacted by the Disability & Wellbeing Adviser to discuss your circumstances. They will ask you to supply evidence of your condition and any supporting information that might be relevant. All evidence must be supplied in English.

This information is used to agree a support plan for you. The information provided will be treated in confidence and used only for the purposes of providing the appropriate support to your circumstances.

These bespoke Individual Support Plans (ISPs) are developed in agreement with you, outlining recommended reasonable adjustments such as amended assessment arrangements, extensions to library book loans, note-takers or campus mobility support and the ability to request extensions to work if required.



MetFilm School Guides

For further information please download our other Guides:

- London Accommodation Guide
- Berlin Accommodation Guide
- London Funding & Finance Guide
- Berlin Funding & Finance Guide
- London Student Support Guide
- London International Students Guide
- Berlin International Students Guide

Please note the information provided in this guide referring to any external company, is provided as an overview only. All details and information are subject to change and may be impacted by Covid 19 restrictions. Please refer to individual websites for the latest information.

Please note this MetFilm School Guide is correct at time of publishing and is subject to change. Please visit the MetFilm School website for the latest information.

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